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State Ministry of Internal Security, Home Affairs and Disaster Management

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 Your No }

දිනය } 17 November 2020
 திகதி }
 Date }

Disaster Management Circular No: 01/2020, 13.11.2020

District Secretaries

Pollonaruwa, Batticaloa, Ampara, Trincomalee, Anuradhapura, Vavuniya, Mannar, Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi, Jaffna, Badulla, Kandy, Matale, Kurunegala, Puttlam

NORTH EAST MONSOON PREPAREDNESS PLANNING FOR RESPONSE 2020

1. Though the second wave of COVID-19 outbreak has proposed a system of "New Normal" with certain restrictions, the health authorities and essential services are working around the clock. According to the meteorological observations and forecast, North-East monsoon is expected during November to January 2020 and the forecast is *above normal* than the usual weather pattern during December to January period.
2. This will make challenging circumstances for all district/divisional authorities, responding agencies including military, police, civil security and health agencies, who are in the forefront of any disaster. This year, the usual disaster response strategies such as evacuation shelters, food assistance, mobilisation of aid workers would be difficult and will be a major health concern due to prevailing pandemic situation. Hence, communities and responding agencies need to plan new strategies for preparedness and response.
3. In this context, it is important that all relevant agencies are fully prepared to handle such situations and impacts during the North East monsoon season. Focusing on this scenario, the ministry has guided the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) and national Disaster Relief Centre (NDRSC) to undertake a special process to bring in additional and proactive measures to handle such complex situations. This is in line with the health and safety guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Indigenous Medical Services in conducting relief operations amidst the COVID-19 outbreak.
4. Hence, the following specific guidelines need to be followed to cope with any given situation during the North East monsoon and relevant District and Divisional authorities are required to make adequate preparedness efforts along with all stakeholders.

18/11/2020

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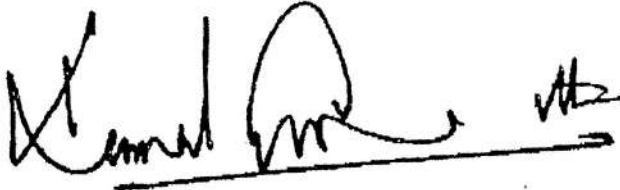
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- a. Analyse previous disaster situations during past North-East monsoons and plan for worst case scenario together with all relevant agencies.
- b. Based on the scenarios and high-risk areas exposed to monsoon, develop warning dissemination, evacuation and response plans with effective time slots.
- c. Identify feasible safety centres and facilities, keeping in line with health and safety guidelines related to COVID-19 outbreak and this needs to be considered with health facilities, screening and registration process for each safety centre, together with special safety and protection for women, children and differently abled persons.
- d. Identify additional quarantine centres, for emergency relocation of population who are already in the process of quarantine in an emergency situation.
- e. Promote friends and relatives temporary care programme.
- f. Make effective community awareness programme and risk communication methods through all electronic and social media as well as community level awareness events following health guidelines.
- g. Plan for the needs for response and relief including food, medical, non-food, sanitary and safety materials in the safety centres with specific emphasis to provision/preparation of food and storage facilities as well as financial forecasts.
- h. Develop a plan for the continuation of essential services such as ambulances, electricity, water, waste management, LP gas for the safety centres together with relevant agencies.
- i. Plan for the provision of "hot meals" to be prepared at a pre-arranged suitable location (avoiding community cooking) and distribution to centres with appropriate logistical arrangements.
- j. Establish district and divisional level disaster response coordination committees under the direction and guidance of the respective District & Divisional Secretaries for effective response/ relief planning and coordination.
- k. Organise Health protocols to all Safety Centres/Evacuation Centres with medical authorities/PHIs and Para Medics/Red Cross.

5. All Assistant Directors (ADs) of DMC and District Officers (DOs) of National Disaster Relief Services Centre (NDRSC) to work together on one platform in order to provide best possible safety, security, response and recovery to all vulnerable communities and effected people with proper accountability without duplication.

6. The State Ministry of Internal Security, Home Affairs and Disaster Management expects the highest coordination and cooperation for this plan by all Government Agents (GAs), Assistant Government Agents (AGAs) together with Assistant Directors (ADs) and District Officers (DOs) of Disaster Management Division of the ministry.



Major General (Retd) Kamal Gunaratne
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Secretary

State Ministry of Internal Security, Home Affairs and Disaster Management

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